

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /055 W

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R 051743Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2595

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 9590

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BE, PO, PFOR

SUBJECT: BELGIAN SOCIALIST PARTY SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS

1. BELGIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSB) IS SENDING THREE-MAN DELEGATION TO PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS. DELEGATION WHICH IS HEADED BY PSB CO-PRESIDENT JOSE VAN EYNDE AND INCLUDES FORMER MINISTER OF LABOR - ERNEST GLINNE, AND HEAD OF FRANCOPHONE YOUNG SOCIALISTS MARC-HENRI JANNE, DEPARTS DECEMBER 12. GLINNE, WHO SPECIALIZES IN EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN QUESTIONS IN ADDITION TO LABOR MATTERS, IS KEY MAN IN DELEGATION. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND IS MOST APPROACHABLE.

2. HE TOLD US HE MADE VISIT THREE WEEKS AGO TO LISBON, ANGOLA, AND MOZAMBIQUE IN ROUTE TO EC MEETING IN MAURITIUS. HE WAS IN LOURENCO MARQUEST AT TIME OF RIOTS.

3. PSB NATIONAL SECRETARY ANDRE LEONARD TOLD US HE WILL BE MAKING TRIP TO PORTUGAL LATE DECEMBER OR EARLY JANUARY IN CONNECTION WITH ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. HE SAID THERE IS COORDINATION AMONG SOCIALISTS PARTIES OF BELGIAN, HOLLAND FRANCE AND THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADE UNIONS TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO SOCIALIST PARTY TO COMBAT MILLIONS OF ESCUDOS WHICH COMMUNISTS HAVE RECEIVED FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS.

GLINNE TOLD US HE DOES NOT THINK COMMUNISTS WANT TO USE THEIR

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FUNDS IN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND, THEREFORE, ARE NOT KEEN ON

HOLDING ELECTIONS SOON WHILE SOCIALISTS ARE PUSHING FOR ELECTIONS.
HE SAID COMMUNISTS PREFER A PERUVIAN-TYPE SITUATION OF SHARING
POWER WHILE USING FINANCES TO INCREASE ORGANIZATION STRENGTH.
LEONARD EXPRESSED PESSIMISM ABOUT EVENTUAL ELECTIONS RESULTING IN
COMMUNIST VICTORY WHICH COULD LEAD TO CHILE-TYPE SITUATION.

4. PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY WAS REPRESENTED AT SOCIALIST
DOCTRINAL CONGRESS NOVEMBER 16-17 BY THREE MAN DELEGATION
INCLUDING NUMBER TWO MAN IN PARTY. FORNMIN SOARES HAD BEEN
EXPECTED TO ATTEND, BUT HAD OTHER COMMITMENTS.

5. BOTH GLINNE AND LEONARD DOWN-PLAYED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
OTHER SO-CALLED SOCIALIST PARTY(PPD) AND SAID IT WAS A MIXTURE
OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND FORMER COLONIAL ADMINISTRATORS. THEY
SAID THE PPD HAD NO CHANCE OF BEING ADMITTED TO THE SOCIALIST
INTERNATIONAL.FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRUSSE09590
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740353-0840
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741259/aaaabygy.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN SOCIALIST PARTY SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS
TAGS: PFOR, BE, PO, BELGIAN SOCIALIST PARTY-PSB, PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY, (VAN EYNDE, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005